

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Lowell M. Porter



Office of the State Fire Marshal

Captain Fred Fakkema
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

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**Contact: Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Anjela Foster
(360) 753-0493**

Preparing Your Home for Wildland Fire Season

Chief Lowell M. Porter announced today that the wildland fire season is fast approaching, now is the time to start preparing your home. Many people—especially those with recreational property—really don't take the time to prepare their investment for a wildland fire.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal offers these tips on how to prepare your home for the upcoming fire season:

- Remove dead or overhanging branches. During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames and sparks could travel from trees to the roof of your home.
- Remove leaf accumulation from your yard. Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
- Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- Remove tall, dry grasses. Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between six and ten feet from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree.
- Check your generator to be sure it is in good repair. Refuel garden equipment carefully, away from dry, flammable grasses.
- Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability.
- Have a well-irrigated and clear area which encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency.

These are just a few tips to prepare your home for a wildland fire. For more information, you can access Firewise at www.firewise.org.

For additional fire safety tips, visit the Washington State Patrol – Office of the State Fire Marshal Web page at <http://www.wsp.wa.gov> or contact your local fire department.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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